EARLY OWNERS

The Abraham Bryants
Deacon Nathaniel Stow
Col. Ebenezer Nichols
Ephraim Parker
And its distinguished tenant
Lieut-Gen. Sir Archibald Campbell

27435 21131 Reference 974.4

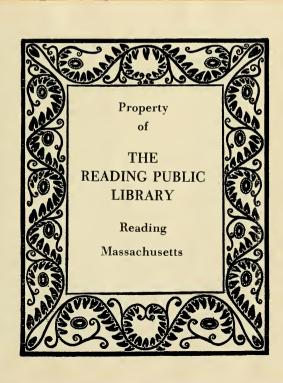
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MR.LOEA HOWARD





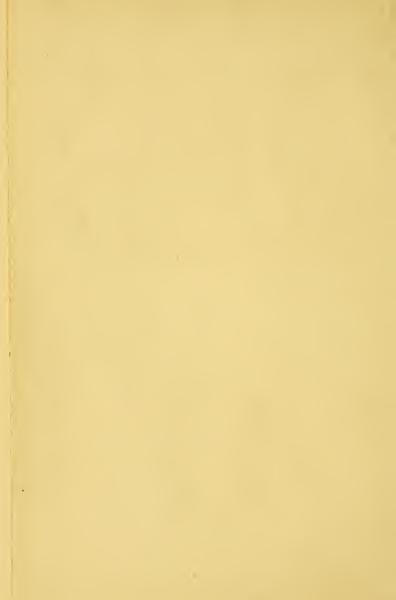






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1694 ► The PARKER TAVERN 1930







D. A. R. Room

THE

PARKER TAVERN

BEING AN ACCOUNT OF
A MOST INTERESTING HOUSE
BUILT BY ABRAHAM BRYANT IN 1694
TOGETHER WITH SOME FACTS
ABOUT EARLY OWNERS



Privately Printed
READING ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY
Reading, Massachusetts
27435

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After wet twilights, when the rain is done,

I think they walk these ways that knew their feet,

And tread these sunken pavements, one by one, Keen for old Summers that were wild and sweet.

SHIPS IN HARBOUR, by David Morton

Where one, during his boyhood, looked daily upon an ancient house, and in his teens helped to gather the crops from fields east and west of it, and drove the loaded teams to the barn, under the direction of the owner, Thomas Sweetser, for whom he had a feeling both of veneration and boyish affection, it is not strange in his later years that the history of this old Reading homestead, and of its early occupants, should become an interesting study.

LOEA PARKER HOWARD

Thanksgiving, 1930

The Author wishes to acknowledge the great help that he has received from the officials at the Registry of Deeds and Probate in Cambridge, from the librarian of the New England Genealogical Society, from the Town Records in the Clerk's Office at Reading, and to Mr. Clinton Bancroft for his photographs of the Tavern, taken during 1930.

THE ABRAHAM BRYANTS

THREE GENERATIONS

1664-1724

6

SERGEANT ABRAHAM BRYANT

ABRAHAM BRYANT is first mentioned in the Town records of 1664, the year in which he married, and paid his first Town tax. All but one of the first settlers of Reading were then living. In 1667 he was one of the fifty-nine house-holders who were to share exclusively all future divisions of Town lands. His homestead was on the north slope of Cowdrey's Hill, on Elm Street, now Wakefield, near the lower end of Ash Street, coming down from Reading. His neighbors were Goodwins, Hartshorns, Nichols, and on the south and west slopes of the hill, were the Parkers and the Eatons. He was the first of a large number of blacksmiths bearing the name of Bryant. At a town meeting in 1677, he was granted:

"the land that his lean-to stands upon, or any part of his shop, he relinquishing his right in what his old shop stood upon the Meeting-House."

At a meeting in another year, he was given half of a

certain swamp island in exchange "for the hinges on the town pound," and a small sum of money.

In 1688 he gave 7£ toward building the second meeting-house. Sergeant Bryan was the progenitor of a sturdy and prosperous family: six of his name from Reading served in the Revolutionary War; two of his great grandsons from Sudbury, one of whom bore the name of Abraham, perished in the terrible siege of Louisburg. He died in 1720. His wife, Mary, was one of eight daughters of Deacon Thomas and Rebecca Kendall.

Toward the close of a long life, her mother could truthfully say:

"Rise, daughter, to thy daughter run, Thy daughter's daughter hath a son."

In 1693 Abraham Bryant, Jr., then in his twenty-second year, married Sarah, then in her seventeenth year, a daughter of Captain Thomas Bancroft.

A deed signed on Oct. 22, 1693, in Book 13 page 162 of the Middlesex Deeds, conveyed to Abraham Bryant, Jr., a gift of land from his father as follows:—

"To all Christian People to whom this Deed of Gift Shall Come, Send Greeting: Know Ye that I Abraham Briant of Reading, blacksmith, for divers good causes and upon good considerations moving me thereunto, But more especially for and in consideration of the faithfulness, fidelity, truth and duty that I have had from and found in my eldest son Abraham Briant, do give, grant, and convey to him and his heirs the half part of my land in Burchen plane, so called, with one-half part of my Second Division Lott, be the two half parts of them Two Lotts more or less as they are bounded — The half part of my Second Division by the land laid out to Jonathan Eaton southerly, northerly by the land of Sergt. Nathaniel Parker &c. To have and to hold with all the rights, soil, stones, Brush, Trees or Timber like Trees, grass, herbage, wood lying or standing or growing or that shall ever grow on the same."

Abraham, Sr. drew this land in 1687 as a part of his lott or share in the common or town lands, purchased of the Indians during the previous year.

The land was to revert to his father's estate in case no child was born to them. Please observe that no building is mentioned in the deed of 1693; but in 1700, the father sold to Abraham, Jr.

"his orchard, that joins to his son's *homestead*, with a little piece of land between the orchard and his land;"

we know therefore that the house was built before 1700.

The son was taxed first in 1694 for 9s, and in 1695 it was increased to 18s. Is anything more probable than, having been given the land for a homestead soon after his marriage, and being prosperous at his trade in this new part of the town, that, by the time his first child was born in 1695, this home should have been built?

A full consideration of these facts warrants the belief that in 1694 or '95 Abraham Bryant, Jr. built the house which we call Parker Tavern. Its style clearly indicates a period previous to 1700.

In all probability it was the second house built in this part of Reading. The first was that of Ensign Nathaniel Parker, built about 1677, on the corner opposite the post office. The third was the house of John Parker, 2d, on Walnut Street, near the residence of Walter S. Parker, Esq.; it was burned in 13613. This Parker was married a year later than Abraham Bryant, Jr. If the Parker house was the third, it is entirely reasonable to believe that the Bryant house was the second, for we are told that a Bancroft house was the fourth. No one to my knowledge has heretofore located the second Reading house.

A reason for facing the house toward the west is found in the close relationship that had long existed between the Bryant and Eaton families. John Eaton, Joshua Eaton, cousins, and Abraham Bryant, Sr. married three of the numerous Kendall sisters, and had been neighbors on the north and west slopes of Cowdrey's Hill. They later moved into the same neighborhood in the "Wood End" of Reading. The Eaton land lay along what is now Summer Avenue, and the Bryant lot was on Washington and Ash Streets; these were known in our day as the Prescott and Sweetser farms, and were adjacent with no intervening houses for two centuries. It was most natural, therefore, that the Bryants should place their new home so that it would face the west, thus overlooking the fields where they would see later the dwellings of their relatives and old neighbors. The front and north windows gave good view of the road, which the family of the young wife and mother, Sarah Bancroft, would use, when visiting the new Bryant home.

Picture with me the gathering here in the Spring of 1694, for the purpose of raising the frame of this house, the timber for which was probably hewn from oaks which grew in the near-by forests. The boards may have been sawn at the Bancroft mill in the meadow beyond West Street, or at the Poole's mill near the present Rattan Works.

The nails and hardware were hand wrought by young Bryant at his own forge, and the greater part of the furniture was also of home manufacture.

To attend the "raising" in this remote and almost unsettled "wood-end" of Reading, the relatives and friends rode over the rough town-ways on horseback, although there was a "calash" for the older relatives. The only food in those days was that grown on the home farms; the drinking of Jamaica rum, corn whiskey and cider was a universal custom; no wedding, funeral, settlement of a minister, or "raising" took place without its aid. Tea was then much too expensive a drink for country folks, costing in London from thirty to fifty dollars per pound. Household utensils were made of pewter, earthen-ware and wood; an owner of this very house in the next century was a "dish-turner." The use of tobacco and snuff was then common among members of both sexes; in the inventory of Deacon Stow, was "tobacco in the leaf and in the roll to the value of 19£," suggesting the idea that it probably was grown upon the place. A by-law forbade the placing of tobacco racks upon the Town commons.

The only books mentioned in the wills and inventories of Reading people that I have read are the Bible, commentaries, sermons and a few histories, notwithstanding the fact that De Foe, Steele and Addison were then writing; there were no newspapers, nor any regular delivery of letters. The observance of Christmas was looked upon

as irreligious and pagan. There was little natural science to guide men to a reasonable explanation of unusual occurrences.

Yet there probably were as many interesting topics of conversation on the day of the "raising" of the Bryant House as in our twentieth century gatherings; families were large and all sorts of things were happening therein. The terrors of the witchcraft delusion were in their very midst; four Reading women had been arrested and imprisoned in the Boston jail. The division of the Town lands by lot, must have been a fruitful topic for discussion among the men. Then there was the location and building of the new meeting-house, the disposal of the old one, the settlement of the new minister, Rev. Mr. Pierpont, and the collection of his yearly salary, which was 35£ in money and 35£ in produce. The Indians and their raids were a constant source of fear among the families living in these lonely homesteads; it was about ten years after this house was built when the Indians attacked and killed several members of the Harnden family, three miles north of it. Military service was then a universal duty, and many of the men who gathered to assist in this "raising" had seen service in King Phillip's War, or in more recent Indian encounters; several, indeed, had been commanding officers in important campaigns.

We may be sure, therefore, that many stories were told of their adventures and deeds of daring, and that there was no lack of interesting talk as they worked and feasted together.

At the "raising" of a Parker dwelling here in 1735, a granddaughter of Ensign Nathaniel, came from her home in Roxbury to attend it, and stated that she met no less than sixty of her cousins on that occasion. It is probable that an equal number gathered for the raising of the home of Abraham and Sarah Bryant.

I will mention first his father, Sergeant Abraham, then about fifty years of age, who had given them the land and had already planted an orchard near the house. Next to be introduced are her father and mother, Captain Thomas Bancroft, 2nd, then forty-five, and Sarah Poole, thirty-eight years of age; Captain Bancroft had already made a wedding gift to his daughter, alluded to in her will, and later gave her one third of his household goods and 18£ in money. He had been a valuable officer in King Phillip's War, and a deacon and selectman for many years.

Sarah, his wife, was a daughter of Captain Jonathan Poole, the successful commander of the troops in the Connecticut Valley towns in 1675–'76. Grandmother' Bancroft was doubtless there, Elizabeth Metcalf, then

sixty-eight, born in England, who with the rest of the family of her distinguished father, Michael Metcalf, had fled to New England to escape the wrath of Bishop Laud. They settled in Dedham, where she and Lieut. Thomas Bancroft, also an emigrant, were married in 1648; four years later they came to Lynnfield and then to Reading. Grandmother Kendall, although seventy-six years of age, might have been there; she was to be spared for nine years to minister to her numerous descendants. "The mother of ten children, who later counted grandchildren and great grandchildren to the number of one hundred seventy-five," was inscribed on her gravestone. The Kendall aunts were there; they had married, respectively, a Boutwell, an Eaton, a Parker, a Nichols, a Dunton, a Goodwin and a Pearson, all highly respected Reading families.

As Deacon Kendall had no son that lived to an adult age, each of his daughters gave the name Kendall to one of their sons, and thus the family name was perpetuated.

Then there were the brothers and sisters of the young couple, with their wives and husbands. And so this roof-tree was put into its place in the presence of a company, that for numbers and excellence, was not to be equalled for two and one-third centuries, until that auspicious day when the house was rededicated by this Society, as a part

of the Tercentenary Celebration of the Town and the Commonwealth.

Seven children were born to Sarah and Abraham in this new home. Their first-born was named Mary, in honor of his mother, Mary Kendall; the second was Sarah, named after her mother, Sarah Bancroft; the third, was a boy, Abraham Bryant, 3rd. Years after this, two of his grandsons, Abraham the 4th, and a brother, were to lose their young lives in the siege of Louisburg. Lieut. Abraham, Jr., died in 1714, at the comparatively young age of 43 years. The first item in the inventory of his estate is,

"Housing and land about twenty acres; the land contains the *half lot* given by his father and eight acres bought of Capt. Richardson, with the orchard bought of his father, lying between, all joined together. Also ten acres lying between Joseph Burnap's homestead, and the land of Nathaniel Parker."

His inventory also makes mention of his military arms; wares sold out of the shops; anvils, smith's tongs; saddles; pillions; a calash valued at $5\pounds$; 13 sheep; 13 lambs; and a weaving-cloth. To Sarah, his widow, was given

¹ The Burnap place was on both sides of Ash Street, where we now see an old house, adjoining the Power Station; the Nathaniel Parker land was on the north side of Washington Street.

the use of the west low room (lower?) and the chamber behind it; one-third of the cellar under it; the use of the well, and of the garden, fenced near the gate. She died nine years later at the age of 47 years.



Sketch of Parker Tavern Made by Dr. Horace G. Wadlin in 1876

DEACON NATHANIEL STOW

1724-1737

IN 1724, Nathaniel Stow bought the place of Abraham Bryant, 3rd, who had moved to Sudbury, and had lately married there. Young Stow had worked for the father, probably living in the Bryant family, and had married a daughter, Mehitable, in 1721.

His grandmother, Stow, and his wife's great-grandmother, Bancroft, were sisters, Martha and Elizabeth Metcalf. This accounts for young Nathaniel's learning his trade of the Bryants in Reading.

She died two years later; he married a second wife in 1724. He had inherited considerable money from his father, Nathaniel Stow, a well-to-do farmer of Concord, Massachusetts. His mother was Ruth Merriam of that Concord family whose buildings protected the Reading Minute-men under young Dr. Brooks, later a Governor, when they began the fierce attack upon the British troops, retreating toward Boston, April 19, 1775.

The deed recording this transfer, in Book 23 page 259 at Cambridge, contains the following description:—

"Abraham Bryant of Sudbury, blacksmith, for 385£, paid by my brother-in-law, Nathaniel Stow of Reading, blacksmith, all my share of housing, land and meadow

that was my Honored Father Abraham Briant's jun. of said Reading, deceased, and is all settled on me. The Homestead is bounded North and East with the town highway, Southerly by the land of Joseph Burnap and Thomas Poole, Westerly by the land of Nathaniel Goodwin and Thomas Eaton, and the town highway, with all the housing, fencing and orchard (always excepting a piece of land that is my Uncle Kendall Briant's, lying in at the easterly end of it. Apr. 28, 1724."

Nathaniel Stow died childless at the age of 39 years; his five children by his second wife dying before the age of ten years. His widow married again in 1738, and moved to North Reading. It is significant that she gave to her first child the name Nathaniel. Deacon Stow was a man of unusual merit. Sarah Bancroft Bryant in her will, dated 1723, wrote as follows:—

"I give to my kind and loving son-in-law, Nathaniel Stow, my best table and twenty shillings in money, the same to be taken out before the division of my estate"; his three Concord brothers speak of him as "our beloved brother, Nathaniel." He bequeathed 5£ for the purchase of a silver communion cup "for The Church of Christ in Reading" (Wakefield); 50£ in trust to the deacons and the minister, for the poor of the town; 10£ as a gift to

the Rev. Mr. Hobby; 200£ in trust to the deacons for the benefit of his brother Samuel, a clergyman; to the first son of his brothers that shall bear the name of Nathaniel, he left his halberd, his face coat, buttons, shoes, silver buckles and silver spoons; also his right in the Narragan-sett Township of Souhegan West, and land in New Hampshire jurisdiction. These bequests and the testimonials, reveal a man of loving, generous, and noble character, with a breadth of thought much in advance of that age. Deacon Stow in many respects was the finest occupant of this house in all of its long history of more than two and a third centuries.

By his early death, the Stow name disappears from our Town records. His estate was valued at $1725\pounds$.

The Stow family has always been noted in educational and literary fields. John Stow, the emigrant, came to Roxbury from England in 1634, with a wife and six children. He was early a teacher in the Roxbury Latin School, and received 80s for transcribing the early Town records. He was a deputy for two terms. One son assisted his father as a teacher, and another gave to the school his "Great Lots in Roxbury." Harriet Beecher, her husband, Prof. Calvin Stow and the Rev. James Pierpont, who was instrumental in the founding of Yale College, were descendants of the John Stow of Roxbury.

THE EBENEZER NICHOLS

FATHER AND SON 1738-1758

IN 1738, Ebenezer Nichols, a tanner, of Reading, bought of Benjamin, Jonathan and Thomas Stow of Concord, for 1175£ "all the housing and land in Reading that was Our Brother Nathaniel Stow's late of Reading deceased, given to us by his will." There were 30 acres in the homestead and 40 acres in the meadow lots.

Ten years later, the father made the following gift to his only son, Ebenezer. Book 54, page 83, Middlesex Deeds,—1748.

"By Ebenezer Nichols,—Gentleman,—a deed of gift to Ebenezer Nichols, jr. husbandman; One-half of my dwelling house and barn that was Dea. Nathaniel Stow's dec'd., viz.—the north half through the chimney, the back Lean-to, with the south chamber and the west part of the cellar with the garden next to the road, up to the Barn as it is now fenced out, for yard room, with the west part of the Barn. Also about five acres of land at the lower end of my old orchard, between the fourth and fifth rows of apple trees, to a stake by Capt. Eaton's fence, bounded North, East and South on my own land and West by land of Capt. Thomas Eaton."

Four years later, Lieut. Ebenezer, Jr. died at the age of 27 years, leaving a widow, and two young children, Ebenezer and Susanna. In 1757, Col. Nichols, as guardian for his two grandchildren, bought their interest in the half house and piece of orchard, giving them first, more of his Stow land, and later, in exchange, land that he had recently purchased of the Town "near to the Reading Meeting-House" (Wakefield). There are good reasons for thinking that Col. Nichols lived in this part of the town, from 1729 until after his son's death in 1752. During the latter part of his life, he lived in a large two and one-half story house where the Beebe Memorial Library now stands.

Col. Nichols was the most distinguished owner of this house, as Deacon Stow was the most benevolent. He was a remarkably useful, influential, and highly honored citizen. He served on important committees, was the town moderator, a selectman, and the representative to the Legislature for nine terms, during the critical period with England, over the Stamp Act. In October 1765, the town meeting addressed to him the following instructions:

"To Ebenezer Nichols, who represents the town of Reading at the General Assembly:—

That you endeavor by all possible means, consistent

with our allegiance to the King, and relation to Great Britain, to oppose the execution of the Stamp Act . . . and in all actings, to maintain our Rights as free-born Englishmen."

He was a surveyor, and we are indebted to him for the map of the highways of Reading in 1765, giving the location, and names of the owners of dwelling houses at that time. In 1768, when the pews of the third meeting-house South Reading were disposed of in the order of the highest tax payers, Col. Nichols was rated the fifth.

In 1722, he was a sentinel under Captain Tyng; later a sergeant in Captain Blanchard's Company, then a Captain, and in 1757–59 was a Colonel of a regiment, from which men were drawn to assist in the relief of Major Gen. Winslow's expedition for the Reduction of Canada.

His wife was Susanna Munroe of Lexington. Her grandfather, William Munroe, was taken prisoner with 272 other Scots, at the decisive battle between the Royalists and Cromwell, at Worcester in 1651. Cromwell sent them to Boston to be sold into service. Later on he settled in Lexington, and it is said that this virile Scotchman, who had been banished for serving the King in England, engendered a huge posterity to fight against His Majesty in America. There were twenty-five Munroes of

his line in the Revolutionary War, and fifteen at the Battle of Lexington. Susanna's father, Lieut. John Munroe, eldest son of the emigrant, was given land for services in the Indian fight at Lamprey River in 1690. The house of her brother Merritt, still stands opposite the Lexington Green. Her nephew, Josiah, was a close friend of General Lafayette, who gave him a sword. Doubtless members of this patriotic family came here from time to time, to visit Colonel and Susanna Nichols in their Reading home.

Lieutenant Bryant, Deacon Stow and Colonel Nichols were men of very different personal characteristics, but all necessary to the welfare of this young colonial town. They were thoroughly respected and very useful citizens. Their unusually strong family connections must have made this homestead well known throughout Middlesex County. They were worthy predecessors of the Honorable Society to whom the future welfare of this house has been entrusted. There will be no more such venerable Reading dwellings—"Treasure this, the oldest one!"

THE EPHRAIM PARKERS

Father and Son 1757–1804

IN 1757 and '60 Ephraim Parker, then a cordwainer, bought the house, barn, shop and forty-five acres of land, "that formerly was the homestead of Deacon Nathaniel Stow." Accounts of his earlier years on the place have so often been related, that it will not be necessary to recall them here.

In 1785, Ephraim married for the third time, Widow Sarah Perkins of Beverly; three months later he sold to her one-half the house and twenty-five acres of land, "Provided nevertheless that I reserve the improvement of the house, during my natural life," he added. Five years later, he sold the other half of the estate to Jabez Temple, a "keg-maker." He died in 1804, at the age of seventy-six years. His widow sold her half in 1805 to Nathan Porter of Beverly; in 1806, the whole farm passed into the hands of the last private owners, the sterling Sweetser family, in whose possession it remained for more than a century; in 1923 the house and field adjoining were purchased by the Town of Reading, who then sold the house to the Antiquarian Society.

Ephraim Parker, Jr., an only son, married in 1772, at the age of twenty-one, after he had received a bequest from the estate of his grandfather, Deacon Raham Bancroft, and as he was taxed on considerable real estate in that and following years, I conclude that he did not live with his father and step-mother many years after his marriage; in 1773, he mortgaged five acres of land with buildings on West Street, not far from the Wilmington line; in 1802, he sold a house and twenty acres adjoining where he was living, with the condition that the purchaser should erect a house thereon in which Ephraim and his wife were to be housed as long as either of them lived.

In 1796 and '97, he taught one of the town schools, receiving for his services 7£ each year. His title "Master" Ephraim, always written with the quotation marks, arouses suspicion that he was not highly esteemed as such. The largest single item in an inventory of his property, the total of which was only \$107, was half of a pew in the Third Parish Meeting-house! He left no heirs.

Ephraim, Sr., is credited with eleven days of service in 1757, during the French and Indian War, when he marched on the alarm for the relief of Ft. William and Henry; and on the alarm of April 19, 1775; Ephraim is credited with three days service at the same time.

The Parker Tavern was a licensed inn for about fifteen

The PARKER TAVERN

years, during the period of the Revolutionary War. The license books of the County from 1694, show that no owner had been an innholder until 1769; from 1770 until about 1785, Ephraim Parker was allowed to be an innholder, giving a bond to keep good rule and order. For several years, the selectmen and overseers annually approved bills against the town treasury for their expenses at "Ephraim Parker's house."

COLONEL CAMPBELL¹
OF THE
71ST SCOTCH REGIMENT
AND THE
PARKER TAVERN

Who the prisoners were that lived in Reading during the Revolution, has confused many persons interested in its local history. Careful search fails to reveal any evidence that the English or Hessian soldiers belonging to Burgoyne's army were stationed here. Their number was so alarmingly large that General Heath had the greatest difficulty in persuading the Council of Massachusetts to extend the limits of their parole on the north even as far

¹ See Vols. 195, 196 and 197 of the Archives at the State House. A monograph, Sir Archibald Campbell, by Charles Walcott. Seth Harding, Mariner, by James Howard, 1930. The last is a most interesting book for boys.

The PARKER TAVERN

as Medford Village. The connection between the officers of the 71st Scotch Regiment and the Town of Reading is, however, most authentic and interesting.

Colonel Archibald Campbell in command of five transports entered Boston Harbor on June 16, 1776, in complete ignorance that the British forces had evacuated the town three months before. He and four hundred fifty Highlanders were captured after a brisk engagement, together with a large supply of ammunition and military stores intended for the British army. The prisoners were placed under parole and sent in squads of one hundred into the interior towns, the officers being separated from their commands. Colonel Campbell, with seven of his officers and twenty-two servants, including a tailor, a cook and a piper, to minister to their comfort, were ordered to Reading, and were given quarters at the "house of Captain Nathan Parker." Capt. Parker and his father, Lieut. Nathaniel, had previously been innholders in the Jaquith house that stood at the corner of Washington and Woburn Streets, where Wendell Bancroft later built his dwelling.

This old house was designated on the maps of that period as "Captain Parker's House," to distinguish it from a newer house, now standing at 27 Ash Street, built about 1765, which was known as "Captain Parker's Red

House." It is most probable that the old house was assigned to the Scotch prisoners and their servants, while Capt. Parker and his family remained undisturbed in their new house. This belief is made more certain by a letter of their Quartermaster to the Selectmen of Reading, complaining that the Lodgings provided for them "were unfit for any man to inhabit and an insult upon us to propose them." Colonel Campbell and a few chosen officers soon hired another house near enough to benefit from the services of the other officers and the servants who remained at Captain Parker's. The statement of Thomas Sweetser, Esq. whose father bought the Tavern in 1806 that soldiers boarded there during the Revolution is thus made entirely probable; and the ancient bayonet lately uncovered in the yard and the spoon found years ago in the house, with a British lion stamped upon it, confirm the belief that the Parker Tavern was the house hired by Colonel Campbell.

The officers were allowed to go about freely within a radius of six miles. They had two field tents fully equipped "with apparatus,"—besides one for their servants. Included in a list of what he called his "necessities" that were left behind in Reading, when he was removed to the Concord Jail, in January, were five casks each containing 45 dozens of wine; fifteen cases of wine,

35

twenty of porter, ten of beer and a set of breakfast china, so we may be sure that with the assistance of the cook and the piper, life in Reading was not so dull after all. When the tents had been pitched on the near-by hill, in full view of their house on the plain below, with the woods and the pond in the distance; when the tables had been neatly spread by their servants,—it is quite likely that many bottles of wine were broached in christening the place "Scotland." But the plain country people looked with disfavor upon the gay Scotch costumes and this luxurious mode of life, and the music disturbed the usual serenity of their quiet village. The repeated demands for food and clothing for the servants with their lavish habits, offended the frugal farmers of Reading, and the supplies for the servants became irregular, and then ceased altogether. The selectmen of the town protested to the Council in Boston at being obliged to feed and clothe so many idle servants, and in consequence a few went to work here at their trades, and the rest were lodged in the Concord Jail.

In January 1777, Colonel Campbell, for no fault of his own, but in retaliation for the alleged ill-treatment of Gen. Charles Lee by the British in New York, was sent to the jail in Concord where he remained until May 1778, when he was exchanged for Col. Ethan Allen. In 1782,

The PARKER TAVERN

he was appointed governor of the island of Jamaica; later commanded the fort at Madras, India, and on his return to England Colonel Campbell was knighted, and elected to Parliament.

He died in 1791, at the age of fifty-four. A monument was erected over his remains in the Poets Corner in Westminster Abbey.

* * *



The Old Fire-Place Restored

I think those townsmen, sleeping on the hill, Are never careless how the Town may fare,

But jealous of her quiet beauty still,

Her ways and worth are things for which they care.

Ships in Harbour, by David Morton





















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